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# Pentagon lie-detector tests initiated to stiffen security

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In an attempt to counteract increasing Soviet espionage, the Defense Department yesterday began a one-year lie-detector test program to screen U.S. officials and contractors with access to top secret weapons programs and intelligence information.

Congress originally opposed the use of the lie detector, or polygraph, the effectiveness of which has been subject to controversy, but recently approved a one-year trial limited to no more than 3,500 persons in answer to insistent Pentagon pleas.

Asked at a press briefing why the program was needed, retired Gen. Richard Stilwell, head of the Pentagon's investigative agency, said "it should be evident to everybody in this room that over the past decade there has been an increase in the hostile intelligence presence in the United States."

The deputy undersecretary of defense for policy said "it seems to us that we should take every legitimate step that we can to ensure that we are accessing to our programs only those individuals of proven integrity and trustworthiness."

The trial will be in addition to the already authorized uses of lie detectors for such things as Pentagon criminal investigations and employment in the National Security Agency, which analyzes spy satellite data.

Use of the polygraph test will be directed at Pentagon civilian and military officials and defense contractor personnel requiring use of secret information of so-called "spe-

cial access programs" such as the Stealth bomber being developed by Northrop Corp.

A Northrop employee recently was charged with trying to sell to government agents posing as spies supersecret information about that aircraft, which will use advanced non-reflecting materials and structures to make the plane virtually invisible to radar.

The lie-detector test also will be applied to those seeking employment and wishing to hold jobs in critical positions in the Defense Intelligence Agency, the under secretary said. About 500 DIA positions could be involved, he said.

If the trial goes well, and the expanded lie-detector use is approved by Congress, Gen. Stilwell said as many as 10,000 people could be given polygraph tests under the new program in about five years.

Gen. Stilwell said the trial will be limited to six questions, each of which can be expanded if a "deception" is discovered. They are:

- Has the person being examined ever been engaged in espionage or sabotage in the United States?
- Does he or she have knowledge of anyone who has engaged in such activity?
- Has the person ever been approached to give or sell secret materials to unauthorized people?
- Has the person ever given or sold such materials to unauthorized people?
- Does he or she have knowledge of anyone having done so?
- Has the person had any unauthorized contact with a representative of a foreign government?